

**Date:** December 13th, 2022

**Place:** Dayton Best Western

**Format:** Regular Meeting started at 4:02 p.m.

**Board Members in Person:** Jon Jones (WC), Marty Hall (CC), Larry Hooker (WW), Brad Johnson (AC), Kris Fischer (CTUIR), and Justin Dixon (GC).

**Board Members on Phone:** Michael Largent (WC), Bill Bowles (GC), and Mike Denny (WW).

**Others in Person:** John Foltz (SRSRB), Ali Fitzgerald (SRSRB), Roland Schirman (Citizen), Aneesha Dieu (CCD), Ben Kleist (CCD), and Lance Frederick (Pomeroy CD).

**Others on Phone:** Brian Burke (NOAA) and Kris Buelow (SRSRB).

### Verify Quorum / Public Comment

SRSRB Vice Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm and verified a quorum (6 in person, 3 on phone). No public comment. A motion was made by Justin Dixon to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Kris Fischer and the Board approved the motion.

### Approve Agenda and Consent Agenda:

1. October 2022 Expenses as follows:
  - (H2SR) RCO: \$26,232.39
  - (H2FW) LE: \$3,124.25
  - (H2B4) BPA: \$12,179.47
2. October 25, 2022 meeting notes.

**Action 1** – A motion was made by Marty Hall to approve the October expenses and October 25, 2022 meeting notes. Justin Dixon seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion.

**Presentation: An Update on NOAA's Ocean Salmon Research** — Brian Burke from NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center gave an informative presentation on the Pacific Ocean Monitoring Program and ongoing trends relating to salmon as an update to his presentation last given in 2019 – the presentation was titled "What happens in the ocean doesn't stay in the ocean." Ocean conditions have an outsized effect on salmon returns and determine population trends whereby the first ocean year survival is highly correlated to smolt-to-adult returns. 2021 was a good year but appears to be an anomaly while the ongoing ocean conditions continue to decline based upon data for 2022 – it looks like an average year at best. Data is showing that the Pacific Decadal Oscillation which can normally be used to predict ocean conditions for salmon is no longer showing the same predictive correlation. They are continuing to see range expansions of typically warmer water species as well. The stoplight chart can also be adapted for stock specific trends to see potentially more information.

Management actions for the oceans exist to help improve salmon survival in the ocean. Larger smolt size when entering the ocean helps improve survival so improving freshwater habitat is still important. In addition, we could choose to manage marine mammals for salmon survival. The Marine Mammal Protection Act has led to the highest populations of these species we've ever seen. Co-management for the benefit of fish and mammals is an option using an ecosystem based management approach at the population level – spatial distribution is stock specific. We could also change how we manage forage fish as they are a large source of food for species that also prey on salmon. By increasing alternative prey sources, we could reduce the predation pressure on salmon indirectly. Ocean fish predation is virtually unknown. While these options exist, they will be a challenge to garner support and implement. Brian summarized by saying the trends are continuing to decline and we need to ramp up marine monitoring to continue to identify potential management options.



**Discussion: 2023 SRFB Grant Round Kick-Off and Overview** – Ali provided a brief overview of the kickoff of the 2023 grant round including important dates for the SRSRB to be aware of. The grant funding is expected to be larger than previous years, partly due to carryover from the supplemental funding received in 2022 as well as an additional approximately \$480,000 the Snake Region could receive from a \$5M statewide amount. Funding won't be known until June likely but we're working under an estimated amount of \$2.8M for 2023. Ali also summarized the request from RCO to begin developing some large capital projects over \$1M that are locally reviewed and vetted but held on a list separate from our normal ranked list. Thus, in 2023 we will seek to develop a robust list of priority projects for the regular funding allocation and a second large capital list of projects over \$1M that will go through the grant round process and would be eligible for funding if funding becomes available. When reviewing these funding scenarios, the Lead Entity Committee put forth a recommendation to raise our local funding cap limit to \$1M with no additional match required beyond existing RCO requirements (typically 15%).

**Action: 2023 SRFB Funding Cap Update** – The Board considered increasing the project funding cap to \$1M but was concerned about the potential for too many large projects. They requested to see the list of projects after the Letters of Intent are received and reevaluate with that information in hand. No Action Taken.

**Update – Announcements and Items of Interest**

**Executive Call Actions** – No actions taken.


**RTT Update** – John recapped the November RTT meeting which included a kick-off discussion of the 2023 SRFB grant round, an in-depth update on efforts in the Asotin IMW which will be shared with the Board in more detail sometime in the future, and the latest draft review of the secondary species priority reaches webmap.

**NOAA IJJA Project Summaries** – John updated the Board that five projects were ultimately submitted for IJJA and at request of the Board, John shared the project summaries.

**SRSRB Short Video** – John shared the nearly complete SRSRB outreach video with the group.

**Action: January 24th, 2023 for next Board meeting to be held at the Best Western in Dayton, WA at 4:00PM.** – A motion was made by Larry Hooker and seconded by Jon Jones to hold the next Board meeting on January 24th, 2023 at the Dayton Best Western at 4 PM in Dayton, WA. The Board approved by consensus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m. by Vice Chair Johnson.

Signed By:  Date: 1/24/2023  
Bill Bowles, Chair, Snake River Salmon Recovery Board